

# Caritas Chorale Member Information - 2021

Membership is open to anybody in the community who has a desire to sing great choral music. Many people with little musical experience have developed their singing and musical skills through the Chorale. Although an ability to read music is an advantage, it is not necessary and there are no auditions for prospective members. We are committed to maintaining a friendly and enjoyable rehearsal experience while achieving high standards of musical performance.

Membership in Caritas Chorale provides an opportunity to members of the local community to be part of a high quality choir with an excellent performance venue, a respected artistic director/conductor, a highly skilled accompanist, access to music scores, and the chance to perform with professional and semi-professional musicians.

## To confirm your membership:

- New members: submit a Membership Application form.
- Return members: confirm your contact information with the membership coordinator.
- Pay your rehearsal term fees.

## Expectations of Caritas Chorale Members

As a member of Caritas Chorale, you are expected to:

- Contribute positively to the experience of rehearsals, showing respect for the conductor and your fellow singers by listening carefully and not disrupting rehearsal time by talking.
- Notify your section leader of any change to your contact details.
- Maintain your financial status by paying all fees on time.

- Give notice of your absence from rehearsals, either by email or phone, or by letting your section leader know in advance.

- Keep up to date with all notices and news issued to members.

- Undertake practice on your own time to ensure you know your part before rehearsals. Then in rehearsals, you can concentrate on hearing how your part fits with all the other parts and, collectively, developing the choral dynamics.

## Rehearsals

**Where:** Our Lady of the Snows, Sun Valley Rd, Sun Valley, ID

**When:** Monday 6:30 pm – 8:15 pm \*

- Rehearsals adjusted due to COVID. Monday and Tuesday at various times.

Rehearsals each week provide a structured opportunity as a whole choir to review the note-learning that singers have undertaken on their own time, and to develop harmony and expression across the mix of parts and voices.

Punctual attendance at rehearsals is essential. Please arrive earlier at the start of each rehearsal term to pick up music. For most performances, at least one additional rehearsal is scheduled close to the performance date.

To sing at a performance, you are expected to join rehearsals by the deadlines specified for that term, and to attend a majority of rehearsals, the last three prior to a performance being mandatory. Exceptions may occur at the discretion of the conductor.

For planning purposes, singers are kindly requested to advise us in a timely way if you cannot participate in a term, so we can adjust the number of advance orders we need to place for music scores.

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Please note that photos of Caritas Chorale may, from time to time, appear in publicity releases including newspaper articles, and the Chorale's website and Facebook page. Members' names will not normally be published in large group photos. Your permission would be sought to publish a close-up photograph of you, or to publish your name.

## Membership Fees

Timely payment of your fees helps to keep the choir's finances stable and sustainable. Fees are reviewed each year, and any changes are determined by the Board of Directors.

In case of financial hardship, special payment arrangements may be negotiated with the Treasurer or President.

Caritas Chorale fees consist of:

1. a fixed rehearsal term fee of \$25 for each concert to cover the cost of music.

Rehearsal term fees are due during the first two weeks of each rehearsal term.

## Music Scores & Concert Binders

Music scores are provided to each singer at no cost. Scores for each rehearsal term are purchased in advance according to the expected number of singers participating in that term.

All singers are required to have a standard black music binder for use at all performances. These are available at local office supply stores.

Occasionally we may send music scores as email attachments for you to print at home. Please ask for a copy to be provided if you do not use email or have access to a printer.

## Preparing for rehearsals

The Caritas website, [www.caritaschorale.org](http://www.caritaschorale.org) provides access for singers to on-line rehearsal files. The more diligent you are in practicing and learning the notes at home, the more time we can spend in rehearsals developing the dynamics of our singing together. Please bring along these things to each rehearsal:

- Your music score
- Your pencil and eraser for marking up your score
- A bottle of water if you like

## Artistic Director's Suggestions for Singers

### 1. Practice! And practice some more!

- The more you practice, the more enjoyable choir rehearsals will be for you and everyone.
- Make sure you have a good method of practicing, even when you know the music well. Listen to your music files regularly, and see how your part blends with the other parts.
- Learning to sing the notes and words and getting the timing right is only the first stage. It's how the choir (and other players) sing together which is the creative and really satisfying part.

### 2. Make the most of choir rehearsals.

- One of the greatest joys of singing in a choir is achieving a close bond between Artistic Director/Conductor and choir. This is the way we achieve fantastic dynamics, precise timing and unity of interpretation and emotional effect for ourselves and the audience.
- Watch the conductor. Learn the music well enough that you're not looking at your score all the time with your face and eyes down! Learning by heart is also great memory training and you will be surprised at how much more liberating and enjoyable singing is when you know the notes and the words.

### 3. Contribute positively to the community of the choir.

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- ☑Producing a beautiful choral sound together under the guidance of a professional musical director is the unique experience we come to rehearsals to share.

- ☑Please refrain from unnecessary talk during rehearsal, focusing attention on the conductor.

- ☑Do not wear perfumes or perfumed cosmetics to rehearsals or performances – although non-perfumed deodorant is ok!

- ☑Turn your mobile phone OFF or to silent.

## **4. Attend rehearsals regularly.**

- ☑Realize that your attendance at choir every week is part of the whole experience for everyone. Even if you know all the notes, you need to be there to be a part of the combined blending of voices.

## **5. Look after your voice.**

- ☑Keep yourself well hydrated, avoiding diuretics like caffeine and alcohol before singing.

- ☑During rehearsals, sit or stand with good posture – back straight, shoulders, neck and jaw relaxed – in order to support your voice and take the strain off the vocal cords.

- ☑Consider having singing lessons and refreshers to improve your voice and understanding of music and singing.

## **6. Enjoy the thrill of performance.**

- ☑Make sure you are familiar with all instructions, for example, about preparing your score in advance, the procedure for going on and coming off stage, and the cues for sitting and standing throughout the performance.

- ☑Watch the conductor as much as possible, keeping in mind the pivotal role played by the conductor in ensuring all parts come together beautifully – choir, soloists, orchestra, instrumental soloists – to bring the composer's work to life, and to enable the interpretation of the music to be exacting, exciting, inspired and magical.

- ☑Sing to the audience – they have come to be thrilled and entertained.

## **7. And, above all, enjoy your singing!**

RL Rowsey

Artistic Director

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## Performances and performance dress standards

The Chorale's well-established reputation for excellence in musical performance has been assured by the commitment of singers to musicianship. The choir's image on stage is also important, and care must be taken with appearance, grooming, posture, and orderly sitting, standing, and entrance and exit from the stage.

There is a general standard for performance dress. The following requirements ensure the choir has a consistent and distinguished appearance, which assists the audience to concentrate on the voices and not the clothes.

Note: If performance dress requirements for a particular concert vary from this general standard, singers will be advised in plenty of time before the event. If unusual accessories are part of the dress requirements, these may also be provided.

### FOR WOMEN

Women can choose from the following options:

- Full ankle-length black dress
- Full ankle-length black skirt with a black top
- Full ankle-length, black pants with a black top with ¾ to long sleeves, covered shoulders, full back and high front

Shoes: Plain, black 'dress' shoes.

Jewelry: It should be simple and under-stated, and not large or flashy.

### FOR MEN

- Black tuxedo, pants and dinner jacket
- White shirt
- Black bow tie
- Black shoes and socks

A Word about Health and Safety—The Caritas Chorale Board is committed to its duty of care regarding the health and safety of its members. It is important for members to understand that rehearsals and performances demand a reasonable level of physical fitness and mobility. This is not just to meet the demands of singing itself, but also to be able to stand for long periods, to move quickly between sitting and standing, to be able to climb above-average height steps on the stage "risers", and to negotiate narrow corridors in crowded conditions.

Every effort is made to provide safe and reasonable accommodations for singers with mobility issues, it is important to note that the stage and backstage areas of some venues are not equipped for disabled access.

# Caritas Chorale Member Information – 2021

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: [caritassunvalley@yahoo.com](mailto:caritassunvalley@yahoo.com)

Mail: Caritas Chorale  
PO Box 164  
Ketchum, ID 83340

Website: [www.caritaschorale.org](http://www.caritaschorale.org)  
[www.facebook.com/caritaschorale](https://www.facebook.com/caritaschorale)

Linda Bergerson – 208-726-4846

## CARITAS STAFF

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR—R L Rowsey

ACCOMPANIST—vacant

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Linda Bergerson

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR — Margie Gould

LIBRARIAN—Ginny Bumgardner

## CARITAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT— Richard Stahl

VICE-PRESIDENT—Cherie Kessler

TREASURER—Ann Parry

SECRETARY— Gretel Kauffman

BOARD MEMBER – Joann Morrical

BOARD MEMBER – Peggy Striegel

BOARD MEMBER – Jennifer Stahl

BOARD MEMBER – Dick Brightman, bass section  
leader email: [dickbright@hotmail.com](mailto:dickbright@hotmail.com)

BOARD MEMBER – Mary Kaiser, alto section  
leader email: [marykaiser@hotmail.com](mailto:marykaiser@hotmail.com)

BOARD MEMBER – Jennifer Roman, soprano  
section leader email:  
[jenniferfromow@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferfromow@gmail.com)

BOARD MEMBER – vacant , tenor section leader

## Non-discrimination Statement

Membership is open to all who love music. Our members include people of all ages and backgrounds, with a shared love of choral music and a commitment to excellence in the performance of music.

# Caritas Chorale Member Information – 2021

## New Member Application Form

Caritas Chorale, PO Box 164, Ketchum, ID 83340

All members are required to confirm their contact details with the Membership Coordinator each year, and to notify any changes to these details promptly.

Your contact details

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PO BOX/ STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY AND STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person to contact in an emergency and their phone/mobile:

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What voice part do you sing? (circle one)

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Don't know / not sure

# Caritas Chorale Member Information – 2021

Non-singing volunteer

If you are a current Caritas Chorale member, when did you join the Chorale? \_\_\_\_\_

## Member Application Form – continued

What is your background in singing/music?

Previous experience in a choir:

Music teacher/professional:

Skill level in reading music:

Other relevant background

If you have any special skills or experience that you could bring to Caritas Chorale Inc's overall operation and/or the conduct of its performance program, please summarize here:

I agree to abide by the rules and expectations of Caritas Chorale as outlined in the Member Information Booklet.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_